

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13  
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11  
NSC-05 OES-09 OMB-01 H-01 L-03 SS-15 AID-05 PA-01  
HEW-04 AGR-01 EPA-01 /100 W  
-----129553 171907Z /46  
P 171755Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2104

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 13519

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SNAR, MX  
SUBJECT: MEXICAN REACTION TO PERCY AMENDMENT

REF: MEXICO 12608

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO PLACE ON THE RECORD THE VERY SERIOUS CONCERNS IT HAS ABOUT THE LIKELY REACTION OF THE GOM TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION RELATING TO THE USE OF PARAQUAT IN THE MARIJUANA ERADICATION PROGRAM.
2. GOM OFFICIALS DO NOT UNDERSTAND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT HEALTH HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF AN ILLICIT PRODUCT WHICH IS IN AND OF ITSELF HAZARDOUS. NOR ARE THEY PERSUADED THAT THERE IS ANY CONVINCING EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE CLAIM THAT PARAQUAT IS IN FACT HARMFUL. WHEN THESE CONSIDERATIONS ARE JOINED WITH OVERALL MEXICAN SENSITIVITIES ABOUT THE MEXICAN AND U.S. ROLES IN THE CONDUCT OF THE ERADICATION PROGRAM, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES RESPONDED TO THE ORIGINAL PERCY AMENDMENT BY SAYING THAT A WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FUNDS FROM THE MEXICAN PROGRAM WOULD RESULT IN A TRANSFER OF  
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MEXICAN RESOURCES FROM POPPY TO MARIJUANA ERADICATION, AN ACT THAT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH MEXICO'S PERCEIVED SELF-INTEREST (SEE REFERENCE).

3. EMBASSY HOPES THAT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE DRAFT LANGUAGE WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CAN LEARN OF THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION FROM THE

EMBASSY RATHER THAN FROM THE PRESS. WE EXPECT THAT ANY REQUIREMENT FOR THE USE OF DYES WHICH IS PRESENTED AS A CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE RATHER THAN AS A PRIVATELY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT IS GOING TO STRAIN SEVERELY THE EXEMPLARY GOOD WILL AND COOPERATION THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS DISPLAYED TOWARD THE ERADICATION PROGRAM. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO CONVINCE THE CONGRESS THAT THE PARAQUAT PROBLEM IS ONE THAT COULD BETTER BE SETTLED THROUGH CONSULTATION AND PRIVATE DISCUSSION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MISSION, IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOM, COULD ESTABLISH ACCEPTABLE TERMS AND AT THE SAME TIME NOT DETRACT FROM THE INTENSITY OF THE SPRAY PROGRAM, BOTH AGAINST MARIJUANA AND POPPY. MCANINCH

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CROP DESTRUCTION, MARIJUANA, AMENDMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978MEXICO13519  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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